

COVID-19 variants. Congress should not impose significant tax increases, inflexible mandates, and massive new civil monetary penalties on small businesses as they would compound these problems and damage the fragile small business recovery. NFIB opposes H.R. 5376 and will consider the legislation an NFIB Key Vote for the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

KEVIN KUHLMAN,
Vice President,
Federal Government Relations.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from American Farm Bureau who represents nearly 6 million families and American farmers asking us to reject passage of this bill due to inflation and how this hurts America's farmers.

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION,
Washington, DC, November 16, 2021.

Hon. _____
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the Farm Bureau's nearly 6-million member families, I write to urge you to oppose the Build Back Better Act, a piece of legislation that raises taxes and spends more taxpayer money at a time our country can afford to do neither.

Inflation is driving up costs across the economy, and greatly increased federal spending is a contributing factor. Federal policy choices have raised energy prices, leading to higher costs for everything from food to used cars. And yet this legislation will further exasperate that pain through a methane tax on oil and gas.

The Consumer Price Index is at a 31-year high, and unlikely to reach historical norms any time soon, having risen 6.2% since this time last year. Inflation is a hefty tax on every American's paycheck.

While certain funding increases or newly created programs may, by themselves, be commendable, the totality of the increased federal spending in this bill coupled with the enormously burdensome tax increases leveled on businesses and individuals to pay for it will stifle economic growth and destroy jobs. Ultimately, the result could be the consolidation or sale of family farms and ranches.

The legislation also seeks to raise revenue by increasing fines and penalties as much as ten times their current amount for violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, and Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act. The missteps of farmers and ranchers when navigating complex, oftentimes onerous regulations and laws should not serve as a funding mechanism. While Farm Bureau does not condone bad actors when it comes to appropriately managing safety, the seasonal workforce, and employee pay on the farm, fines associated with OSHA, FLSA, or MSPA violations should not be determined based on their ability to serve as a pay-for in a partisan legislative process. If enacted, these provisions could put well-meaning farmers and ranchers out of business.

While some elements of the reconciliation package would benefit agriculture, the massive amount of spending and tax increases required to pay for the plan outweigh the gains we would see in rural America. Also, the manner in which they were crafted is concerning. The agriculture industry and the committees of jurisdiction have held to a long tradition of bipartisanship that we have seen erode over this past year. We hope this does not negatively impact future farm policy discussions.

In addition, the best policy is that which is discussed in an open and transparent manner

with input from a variety of stakeholders. Reconciliation has been anything but transparent with billions of dollars not even discussed by the committees of jurisdiction. This should concern all advocates of good and responsible government.

The economy is still recovering from the pandemic, supply chains are stressed, and inflation is putting pressure on America's pocketbooks. Now is not the time to put an additional burden on families struggling to make ends meet. After watching months of contentious, partisan debate surrounding the Build Back Better Act, Farm Bureau can only stand in opposition to the legislation.

Respectfully,

ZIPPY DUVAL,
President.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ), whose negotiating skill on USMCA really impressed me.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a second-generation American. I am the son of Mexican immigrants who came here in pursuit of the American promise; a promise that if you work hard and follow the rules, you will succeed, and your children and grandchildren will build on that success.

Unfortunately, the promise has eluded far too many Americans, particularly the working class and people of color. Although some of them feel America has given up on them, they have refused to give up on America. That is why we must pass the Build Back Better Act to make historic investments in our people and our planet and put the American promise within reach of an entire generation for the first time.

Through the Build Back Better Act, we have an opening to invest in children and families by expanding the child tax credit and universal pre-K, give millions of families an affordable place to call home, and tackle climate change while creating good-paying jobs. We have a chance to redefine our commitment to the American people and to move toward a more just, equitable, and perfect Union.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), who is a terrific advocate for all things Nevada.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the historic investments that Ways and Means Democrats have secured in the Build Back Better Act.

For years, Americans have seen their cost of living rise while my colleagues across the aisle focused on tax cuts for the wealthy and the well-connected. At long last, with Democrats in the majority, Congress is delivering the change that our constituents deserve.

As we rebound from the pandemic, I am very proud that the Build Back Better Act includes my bills to cap out-of-pocket drug costs for seniors, lower healthcare premiums for working students, and improve wages, benefits, and training for workers at nursing homes and hospitals.

I also want to acknowledge the major investments in our clean energy future. To tackle the climate crisis and create good union jobs, the Build Back Better Act includes my bills to invest in clean energy transmission and incentivize production of dynamic glass.

The Build Back Better Act will pay for itself, create millions of good-paying jobs, and lower costs for our families. And critically, through a \$5 billion investment in my bill to prevent community violence, the Build Back Better Act will keep our communities safe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to pass this bold investment in America.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT), who is a very effective member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, with the Build Back Better Act, we are investing in a strong economy, in jobs, and ensuring that children, families, and all of our communities can compete and succeed equitably in the 21st century.

This will tremendously benefit all districts, including districts whose Members will not vote for the bill. No doubt many of them will try to take credit for this as they stand against this transformative investment in our economic future.

Build Back Better fights inflation because it is paid for and because it helps working people return to work, increasing supply. Build Back Better reduces the deficit, as we have seen from scoring that has been released as we developed the package.

Americans overwhelmingly support Build Back Better because the American people broadly agree we face an urgent choice between Republicans who insist on keeping the economy that serves the wealthiest and the biggest corporations or the Democrats who are giving middle-class families a hand up at achieving the American Dream.

We have millionaires and billionaires paying lower tax rates than teachers, cops, and firefighters.

Stop pretending you care about balancing the budget, the deficit, and the middle class. We saw what you cared for in the 2017 tax grab.

Mr. Speaker, vote to build back better.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 5376 is postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Adrian Swann, one of his secretaries.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON UNITED STATES OUTLYING AREAS AND FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3730) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 4, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 380] YEAS—420

Adams	Casten	Fitzgerald
Aderholt	Castor (FL)	Fitzpatrick
Aguilar	Castro (TX)	Fleischmann
Allen	Cawthorn	Fletcher
Allred	Chabot	Fortenberry
Amodei	Cheney	Foster
Armstrong	Chu	Fox
Arrington	Cicilline	Frankel, Lois
Auchincloss	Clark (MA)	Franklin, C.
Axne	Clarke (NY)	Scott
Babin	Cleaver	Fulcher
Bacon	Cline	Gaetz
Baird	Cloud	Gallagher
Balderson	Clyburn	Gallego
Banks	Clyde	Garamendi
Barr	Cohen	Garbarino
Barragán	Cole	Garcia (CA)
Bass	Comer	Garcia (IL)
Beatty	Connolly	Garcia (TX)
Bentz	Cooper	Gibbs
Bera	Correa	Gimenez
Bergman	Costa	Golden
Beyer	Courtney	Gomez
Bice (OK)	Craig	Gonzalez (OH)
Biggs	Crawford	Gonzalez,
Bilirakis	Crenshaw	Vicente
Bishop (GA)	Crist	Gooden (TX)
Bishop (NC)	Crow	Gosar
Blumenauer	Cuellar	Gottheimer
Blunt Rochester	Curtis	Granger
Boebert	Davids (KS)	Graves (LA)
Bonamici	Davidson	Graves (MO)
Bost	Davis, Danny K.	Green (TN)
Bourdeaux	Davis, Rodney	Green, Al (TX)
Bowman	Dean	Griffith
Boyle, Brendan	DeFazio	Grijalva
F.	DeGette	Grothman
Brady	DeLauro	Guest
Brooks	DelBene	Guthrie
Brown (MD)	Delgado	Hagedorn
Brown (OH)	Demings	Harder (CA)
Brownley	DeSaulnier	Harris
Buchanan	DesJarlais	Harshbarger
Buck	Deutch	Hartzler
Bucshon	Diaz-Balart	Hayes
Budd	Dingell	Hern
Burchett	Doggett	Herrell
Burgess	Donalds	Herrera Beutler
Bush	Doyle, Michael	Hice (GA)
Bustos	F.	Higgins (LA)
Butterfield	Duncan	Higgins (NY)
Calvert	Dunn	Hill
Cammack	Ellzey	Himes
Carbajal	Emmer	Hinson
Cárdenas	Escobar	Hollingsworth
Carey	Eshoo	Horsford
Carl	Españillat	Houlahan
Carson	Estes	Hoyer
Carter (GA)	Evans	Hudson
Carter (LA)	Feenstra	Huffman
Carter (TX)	Ferguson	Huizenga
Cartwright	Fischbach	Issa

Jackson	Meeks	Schweikert
Jacobs (CA)	Meijer	Scott (VA)
Jacobs (NY)	Meng	Scott, Austin
Jayapal	Meuser	Scott, David
Jeffries	Mfume	Sessions
Johnson (GA)	Miller (IL)	Sewell
Johnson (LA)	Miller (WV)	Sherman
Johnson (OH)	Miller-Meeks	Sherrill
Johnson (SD)	Moolenaar	Simpson
Johnson (TX)	Mooney	Sires
Jones	Moore (AL)	Slotkin
Jordan	Moore (UT)	Smith (MO)
Joyce (OH)	Moore (WI)	Smith (NE)
Joyce (PA)	Morelle	Smith (NJ)
Kahele	Moulton	Smith (WA)
Kaptur	Mrvan	Smucker
Katko	Mullin	Soto
Keating	Murphy (FL)	Spartz
Keller	Murphy (NC)	Speier
Kelly (IL)	Nadler	Stansbury
Kelly (MS)	Napolitano	Stanton
Kelly (PA)	Neal	Staubert
Khanna	Neguse	Steel
Kildee	Nehls	Stefanik
Kilmer	Newhouse	Steil
Kim (CA)	Newman	Steube
Kim (NJ)	Norcross	Stevens
Kind	Nunes	Stewart
Kirkpatrick	O'Halloran	Strickland
Krishnamoorthi	Obernolte	Suozzi
Kuster	Ocasio-Cortez	Swalwell
Kustoff	Omar	Takano
LaHood	Owens	Taylor
LaMalfa	Palazzo	Tenney
Lamb	Pallone	Thompson (CA)
Lamborn	Palmer	Thompson (MS)
Langevin	Panetta	Thompson (PA)
Larsen (WA)	Pappas	Tiffany
Larson (CT)	Pascarell	Timmons
Latta	Payne	Titus
LaTurner	Pence	Tlaib
Lawrence	Perlmutter	Tonko
Lawson (FL)	Peters	Torres (CA)
Lee (CA)	Pfluger	Torres (NY)
Lee (NV)	Phillips	Trahan
Leger Fernandez	Pingree	Trone
Lesko	Pocan	Turner
Letlow	Porter	Underwood
Levin (CA)	Posey	Upton
Levin (MI)	Pressley	Valadao
Lieu	Price (NC)	Van Drew
Lofgren	Quigley	Van Duyne
Long	Raskin	Vargas
Lowenthal	Reed	Veasey
Lucas	Reschenthaler	Vela
Luetkemeyer	Rice (NY)	Velázquez
Luria	Rice (SC)	Wagner
Lynch	Rodgers (WA)	Walberg
Mace	Rogers (AL)	Walorski
Malinowski	Rogers (KY)	Waltz
Malliotakis	Rose	Wasserman
Maloney,	Rosendale	Schultz
Carolyn B.	Ross	Waters
Maloney, Sean	Rouzer	Watson Coleman
Mann	Roybal-Allard	Weber (TX)
Manning	Ruiz	Webster (FL)
Massie	Ruppersberger	Welch
Mast	Rush	Wenstrup
Matsui	Rutherford	Westerman
McBath	Ryan	Wexton
McCarthy	Salazar	Wild
McCaul	Sánchez	Williams (GA)
McClain	Sarbanes	Williams (TX)
McClintock	Scalise	Wilson (FL)
McCollum	Scanlon	Wilson (SC)
McEachin	Schakowsky	Wittman
McGovern	Schiff	Womack
McHenry	Schneider	Yarmuth
McKinley	Schrader	Young
McNerney	Schrier	Zeldin

NAYS—4

Good (VA)	Norman
Greene (GA)	Roy

NOT VOTING—9

Case	Gonzales, Tony	Loudermilk
Fallon	Jackson Lee	Perry
Gohmert	Kinzinger	Spanberger

□ 1303

Messrs. LUETKEMEYER and GAETZ changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 380 on the passage of H.R. 3730, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes, my “yea” vote was not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 380.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei	Johnson (TX)	Rice (NY)
(Balderson)	(Jeffries)	(Murphy (FL))
Bacon	Kelly (IL)	Roybal-Allard
(Fitzpatrick)	(Clarke (NY))	(McCollum)
Barragan	Kirkpatrick	Rush (Quigley)
(Allred)	(Stanton)	Sires (Pallone)
Blumenauer	Krishnamoorthi	Staubert
(Beyer)	(Levin (CA))	(Bergman)
Boyle, Brendan	Lawson (FL)	Steube
F. (Jeffries)	(Evans)	(Timmons)
Burgess (Lucas)	Lieu (Raskin)	Swalwell
Calvert (Garcia)	Lesko (Miller	(Gomez)
(CA))	(WV))	Thompson (MS)
Cleaver	Long	(Butterfield)
(Butterfield)	(Fleischmann)	Thompson (PA)
Davids (KS) (Kim	Lowenthal	(Meuser)
(NJ))	(Beyer)	Tlaib (Bowman)
DeFazio (Brown	Matsui	Trone (Beyer)
(MD))	(Thompson	Underwood
Dingell (Clark	(CA))	(Casten)
(MA))	McEachin	Van Drew
Gonzalez (OH)	(Wexton)	(Tenney)
(Armstrong)	Nunes (Garcia	Waltz (Salazar)
Harshbarger	(CA))	Welch
(Fleischmann)	Payne (Pallone)	(McGovern)
Hartzler	Porter (Wexton)	Wilson (FL)
(Walberg)	Reed (Walorski)	(Hayes)

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the Republican whip, for the purpose of an inquiry as to the balance of the day.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request if the gentleman could let us know what the schedule is expected to be for the remainder of today.

Obviously, the reports are that there may be a CBO score today. I also want to ask the gentleman: Would it be anticipated that there would first be a CBO score before any final passage of legislation?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his question. Let me read through this so I reach every point that I think each Member needs to know.

Following the next vote, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair. As all Members know, we are waiting for some technical pursuits of the budget and reconciliation process to be completed.

The House has completed, as I think all of you know, 1 hour and 40 minutes of the 2 hours of debate on the Build Back Better Act, so there will remain 10 minutes on each side prior to the passage of the Build Back Better Act.